

Directive

9180.17

09/03/03

INSPECTION OF EXPORT WHEAT LOTS FOR CANADA THISTLE SEED

1. PURPOSE

This directive establishes procedures for examining export wheat shipments to Argentina, Brazil, and Korea for Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) seeds.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces Directive 9180.17, dated 1/24/03. This directive is revised to include new cargo destinations, new photographs, and a revised procedure for handling suspected seeds.

3. POLICY

The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), a program of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), will assist the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in the issuance of phytosanitary certificates for wheat shipments to Argentina, Brazil, and Korea by examining these shipments for thistle-like seeds. Official personnel will notify APHIS if thistle-like seeds are detected so APHIS may positively identify suspect seed before issuing a phytosanitary certificate since these countries prohibit the importation of Canada thistle seed.

4. PROCEDURE

- a. Basis of Determination. Analyze each subplot for the presence of thistle-like seeds based on a 1,000-gram sample (sample as a whole).
- b. Detecting Thistle-Like Seed. Canada thistle seed is much smaller than a wheat kernel and is easily removed from the analytical sample by using a dockage tester and hand sieves. Check the dockage and the fine material removed with a .064 x 3/8 oblong-hole sieve from the dockage-free sample to facilitate the detection of thistle-like seeds.

- c. Identifying Thistle-Like Seeds. The following photographs depict the relative size of Canada thistle to wheat and compares Canada thistle to Bull thistle (similar in size and appearance).



Inspection for thistle seed must also include a search for seeds contained in the flowering part of the plant. This material is usually removed as part of dockage.



- d. Reporting Results.

- (1) If a subplot sample does not contain any thistle-like seeds, record "Canada thistle seed – None found" in the "Remarks" section of the inspection log.
- (2) If a subplot sample contains one or more suspect thistle-like seeds that are similar to Canada thistle seeds:
 - (a) Record the number of suspect seeds in the "Remarks" section of the inspection log along with who was notified and when.
 - (b) Notify the exporter of the number of suspected seeds detected.
 - (c) Notify the AMS national seed lab at 704-810-8884. Overnight the suspect seeds to the following address for final determination:

Officer-in-Charge
USDA, AMS
Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch
801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite C
Gastonia, NC 28054-2193

- (d) Field office/federal-state managers will coordinate the efficient transfer of information/suspect seed results with the local APHIS/PPQ office and grain elevator
- e. Certification. FGIS certification is not required. PPQ will not issue a federal phytosanitary certificate for any lot that has not had the Canada thistle seeds removed.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding this procedure to the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.

/s/ David Orr

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